

Kan. Cong. Dist. No. 2

Bill Roy
Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Kansas	
COUNTY: Jefferson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME	
COMMON:	
AND/OR HISTORIC: Union Block	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Southwest corner, Delaware and Jefferson			
CITY OR TOWN: Oskaloosa			
STATE Kansas 66066	CODE 20	COUNTY: Jefferson	CODE 087

3. CLASSIFICATION		CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC		
<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied		Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted		
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private			<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress			<input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted		
<input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Both							<input type="checkbox"/> No	
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)										
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation		<input type="checkbox"/> Comments					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)							
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious								
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific								

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY	
OWNER'S NAME: Multiple private (see continuation sheet)	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE: CODE

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION	
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Register of Deeds	
STREET AND NUMBER: Jefferson County Courthouse	
CITY OR TOWN: Oskaloosa	STATE: Kansas 66066 CODE: 20

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS	
TITLE OF SURVEY: NONE	
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE: CODE

STATE: Kansas	COUNTY: Jefferson	ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
FOR NPS USE ONLY			

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Kansas	
COUNTY	
Jefferson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

4. Owners of property:

Mr. John Hart, Oskaloosa, Kansas 66066
Mr. Willem Helms, Oskaloosa, Kansas 66066
Mrs. Ione Huddleston, Winchester, Kansas 66097

8. others through the years. There are now a number of apartments on the second floor and other rooms are used for storage.

The Union Block has been a landmark at the southeast corner of the courthouse square since its construction, and commercial enterprises located in its facilities have offered a variety of services to the community. The Union Block is an excellent example of Romanesque architecture in a Kansas commercial structure.

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☒ Fair ☐ Deteriorated ☐ Ruins ☐ Unexposed

(Check One)

☒ Altered ☐ Unaltered

(Check One)

☐ Moved ☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Union Block in Oskaloosa is a composite unit of four rectangular storerooms unified by common materials and design. Each section is two stories in height and has a full basement. The buildings face north toward the courthouse square, and the whole business block measures 100 feet long and 80 feet deep with a height of 35 feet.

The exterior walls are constructed of red brick laid in running bond and trimmed around the windows and doors with rough hewn limestone. The red brick facade rises from a massive stone base which marks the basement area. The horizontal bands of rough hewn stone occurring at the sill and head lines of the second floor windows tie them together visually.

The roof is flat and concealed behind a decorative parapet wall. A stone and metal cornice at the parapet is ornamentally treated with wide projecting brackets and corbels.

The front entrance to the former bank building is angled across the corner and flanked by two short red granite columns resting on high limestone bases. Springing from the column capitals is a massive limestone arch. Further emphasis is added to the main entrance by a heightened parapet wall with the word "BANK" in a central position. Also, extensive brick corbeling occurs above the second floor window arch, and the corbeling is flanked by two brick pilasters situated directly over the two granite columns. A secondary entrance located on the east wall also has an extended parapet--this one with the date "1892."

The arched transom above the main entrance is colored glass. The windows on both the first and second floors occur in tall arched openings with rough hewn limestone blocks forming the arches. The window sills are single stone blocks. The arches above the second floor windows are engaged in groups of three and four. A pediment between the two western storerooms has the name "UNION BLOCK" and the date "1892." Below the pediment on the first floor is an exterior opening providing access to the second floor rooms.

The exterior of the former bank has undergone only minor changes, the most obvious being the recent placing of a sign by the current occupant, a restaurant. From all indications the next storeroom to the west, now a department store, still has the original exterior. The remaining two storerooms originally had the same appearance as the department store. But the front of the third was bricked up within the last year or two and new door and window openings installed. The fourth facade has been changed by the installation of a theater marquee and other alterations. In no instance have the second floor facades been changed.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS